remain in the possession of the Ministry, and were used for forestry and afforestation-related work and Ministry related activities.

On 11.5.94 One Bell Jet Ranger Helicopter VT-DYP was also received by this Ministry. This helicopter was initially given by UNDP to the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Forests during 1967 for a project named "Pre-Investment Survey of Forest Resources'. This aircraft has not been put to use by the Ministry so far, as it is not yet airworthy.

(c) Two helicopters.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Piper Seneca III aircraft crashed on 25th August, 1994 at a spot near Karauli village in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan.

Countries Exporting Toxic Waste to India

1096. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem in the 'Pioneer' New Delhi dated the 18th October, 1994 under the caption "Australia, US exporting toxic waste to India".

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for importing the toxic waste in the country;

(d) whether Government propose to stop this import and if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India's officials had discussions with a delegation from Australia on 18 October, 1994. These discussions were mainly on the present hazardous waste regulations of both the countries and the implications of Decision II/12 of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. According to this decision all transboundary movement of hazardous wastes from OECD to non-OECD States destined for final disposal is prohibited with immediate effect and those destined for recycling or recovery operations are to be phased out and prohibited from 31 December, 1997.

(c) Wastes are imported into the country essentially as a raw material for recycling and recovery of materials such as metals, oil etc. These wastes are usually available at more economical rates than virgin material. A large number of secondary manufacturing units in India are dependent on such wastes as raw materials.

(d) and (e) The Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests, have notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, which provides for regulating the generation, collection, storage, transport, treatment, disposal and import of hazardous wastes. According to Rule 11 the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal, However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit. Any import of hazardous wastes would come under the purview of these regulations.

सिक्किम में आरक्षित वन भूमि पर होटलों का निर्माण

1097. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री 24 अगस्त, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 3843 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने सिक्किम राज्य के भूतपूर्व वन मंत्री द्वारा सिंगवा में आरक्षित वन भूमि तथा यमथंग में वन विभाग की वन कुटीर (फारेस्ट लूट) पर अवैध कब्जा करने के संबंध में क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन-संरक्षक से प्राप्त